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ment, to gather works of Art for distribution. If, for the three dollars, every subscriber not only had two Magazines, or an engraving and a Magazine, but also a picture or a piece of statuary, or a bronze medallion, how long would the Association be able to sustain itself?

Let each subscriber reflect upon these things, and seek to aid us in our good work by good words, rather than to bestow upon us hard names, simply because, for three dollars, a return of fifty, or one hundred, or more, is not made. The year just past has been a prosperous one; and we draw from it the most sanguine hopes for the future. We shall endeavor to render the inducement to patronize the Association above all cavil or possible complaint; and, by our Art gatherings and distributions, to do such a work for American taste as it is our wish and earnest endeavor to accomplish; only let our friends be reasonable, not too selfish and exacting, thus to discourage us. We shall then be content to labor on cheerfully, and may assuredly promise good fruits for the years to come. So may it be!



#### A P O L O G E T I C .



ONE of the most vexing cares connected with the detail of the Association is the mailing department, where, although we have a most efficient force, discrepancies will occur which are annoying to all concerned. The frequent letters announcing that such and such numbers of the Magazine have not come to hand, leads us to frequent and careful inspection of the books, and we are free to confess we frequently find ourselves in fault. But, in the majority of cases—indeed, in nineteen out of twenty—we have to blame others for the non-receipt of the Magazines. The causes are these:

1st. Blind address and consequent misdirection. Many subscriptions come, of which, with our intimate knowledge of chirography, we are unable properly to make out the person's name, or the town and State of the address. We generally do the best we can in such cases—direct as nearly right as possible—but frequently do not “come within four rows of apple-trees of the right mark.”

2d. Miscarriages of the mails. *Very* frequent now-a-days, for letters as well as for Magazines.

3d. Loss of mails, by fire, shipwreck, collisions, and theft. Not unfrequent, as all have reason to know who read the papers.

4th. Abstraction of particular numbers by post-office clerks—doubtless, with the honest intention of returning them, but too often forgotten.

These are *some* of the causes of the losses and apparent discrepancies which, reported to us, give not a little trouble. But subscribers will please understand, that we *very cheerfully* listen to all complaints, and will do all that is in our power to remedy losses, miscarriages by the mails, &c. What we have said is for the purpose of relieving us from blame in the matter, so far as we are really blameless. It is our wish, and shall be our constant effort, to promote efficiency in all departments, and to deal with the strictest impartiality by all. By so doing we can only hope for success. If, at times, some irregularities *do* occur, the subscriber will bear with the shortcoming patiently, for it *shall* be righted, so far as it is possible so to do



#### T H A N K S !

TO OUR EFFICIENT SECRETARIES do we owe much of the success of the year just past. They have labored zealously for the good of the Association, and generally with good results in the way of those *material* returns upon which, alone, our future depends. Had they been less faithful, less considerate of the claims of the institution upon their sympathy, we might not now have to congratulate ourselves upon the success which has crowned the workings of the Association for 1856. We therefore tender them our sincerest thanks, and trust that they may long continue to remain friends of Art and co-workers with us in the good labor of disseminating Art and Literary taste over this, our blessed and truly glorious country. If any of these, our *active* friends, shall visit the scene of our operations in New-York, pray let them call, that we may do the agreeable, as an *old* friend should.

TO OUR LADY COADJUTORS we have elsewhere bestowed something of the

meed of thanks we owe. We are not insensible to such favor as they have rendered, and promise ourselves much pleasure in “working up” the kind words they have spirited us, into good things for the future. We have a brilliant offering for the year to come—one which we know will enlist their sympathies anew; and thus we hope to enlarge the wide circle of our *friends*, as well as the list of our subscribers. Until we visit you again, fair co-workers, we bid you all *bon voyage!*

TO THE PRESS we owe a return for its many favors, so freely bestowed. North, South, East, West—in all sections of the Union—the Association has received the most encouraging notice at the hands of the conductors of the press; and in no small degree is our success owing to such favorable attention. We here tender the brethren our gratitude for their assistance, and trust long to labor to their acceptance. When we cease to win *their* co-operation, it will be time for closing operations entirely. May such a moment be far, very far distant!

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS, what can we say but thanks—thanks—thanks, for their *material* sympathy, their kindly co-operation, their patience with shortcomings, and their generously-expressed encouragement, contained in almost every letter to us? They *have* our heart and our hand; and it shall be our study so to manage the affairs of the Association as to bring it to the highest degree of usefulness and excellence. To this end we ask a continuance of their sympathy, through the coming year at least, to see if we do not fulfil our promise and redeem every pledge.



English Art has recently sustained a severe loss in the death of Mr. JOHN ARTHUR HERBERT, son of the Royal Academician, which took place at Mouriac, in France, and was occasioned by an attack of typhus fever. He was the author of “Philip IV. of Spain Knighting Velasquez,” one of the most admired pictures in the exhibition at the National Gallery this year. The painting itself was purchased by the ex-Lord Mayor, being selected by an academician whom he had commissioned to purchase the best cabinet picture in the exhibition. Mr. Herbert, at the time of his death, was only in his 22d year.